United Nations S/2010/275

Security Council

Distr.: General
2 June 2010

Original: English

Letter dated 1 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Japan in April 2010 (see annex). The document was prepared under my own responsibility, following consultations with other members of the Security Council. I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yukio **Takasu**
Permanent Representative of Japan
to the United Nations

10-38511 (E) 080610

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Japan (April 2010)

Introduction

Under the presidency of Japan in April 2010, the Security Council addressed various thematic and regional issues, including peacebuilding, working methods of the Council, women and peace and security, and the situations in Iraq, Guinea-Bissau, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic, Western Sahara, the Middle East, Somalia, Haiti, the Syrian Arab Republic and Lebanon. The Council held 13 official meetings, of which 10 were public, including three open debates, and 12 consultations of the whole, including an informal briefing by the Secretary-General on his recent travels. The Council adopted three resolutions, two of which extended the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping missions, and two presidential statements on thematic issues. The President also made two statements to the press on behalf of the Security Council.

The Council observed minutes of silence at the start of its meetings on 12 and 13 April in tribute to the loss of the President of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, his wife and 95 other members of the Government of Poland in a plane crash on 10 April. On 8 April, the Security Council issued a statement to the press on the passing of the Soviet and Russian diplomat, Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

In April, the Council relocated to its new temporary premises owing to the implementation of the capital master plan. The Council discussed, on numerous occasions, access issues of non-members to the "quiet room" and of the press to the area around its entrance in order to ensure equivalent access as before the Council's relocation.

Africa

Chad and the Central African Republic

On 8 April, in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, briefed the Security Council on the ongoing discussions between the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic. Members of the Council expressed various concerns with regard to a drawdown of the military component of MINURCAT.

On 23 April, again in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General gave the Security Council another briefing on the situation in Chad and the Central African Republic. The Council had intensive discussions concerning the mandate of MINURCAT, which was set to expire on 15 May.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 15 April, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing by Ambassador Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti of Brazil, the Chair of the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire. The members of the Council expressed their appreciation to Ambassador Viotti for her updated briefing and welcomed the midterm report of the Group of Experts submitted to the Council on 18 March (S/2010/179, annex).

Council members expressed concerns about the volatile situation in Côte d'Ivoire and about the findings of the Group of Experts, in particular, for the reported arms embargo violations in the north and the south. Some members were very concerned about the rehabilitation of Ivorian Air Force aircraft. Commenting on the stalled electoral process in the country, some members stated that there was a need to take additional measures if the process continued to experience delays in the coming months. At the same time, some Council members pointed out difficulties in implementing some of the recommendations of the Group of Experts. The members of the Council agreed that they should seek to enhance the capacity of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and the Group of Experts to monitor the arms embargo.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 13 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Alan Doss, briefed the Council on the situation in the country and on proposals for the reconfiguration and drawdown of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), based in part on the technical assessment mission conducted from 22 February to 5 March.

Afterwards, in consultations of the whole, the President of the Council introduced a new practice of beginning deliberations by summarizing the private meeting held by the Council with troop- and police-contributing countries. The President noted that during the meeting with those countries, which had been held one week earlier on 7 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General briefed the delegations on the Mission's protection of civilians mandate, the Amani Leo military operation, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration or repatriation and resettlement and MONUC support to Government-led efforts on security sector reform. The Council proceeded to have an intensive discussion on the mandate of MONUC, including the proposals of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for a drawdown of the Mission.

The Council originally scheduled its mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Uganda and Rwanda from 16 to 23 April. On 23 April, owing to the erupting volcano in Iceland and disruptions in air travel, the Council agreed to reschedule its mission to the Democratic Republic of the Congo from 13 to 16 May.

Guinea-Bissau

Owing to events involving the detention and subsequent release of Prime Minister Carlos Gomes Junior by members of the Guinea-Bissau military on 1 April, the Council released a statement to the press on that day, in which the members expressed their concern over the situation and urged all parties to avoid acts of

violence, uphold constitutional order and respect the rule of law in Guinea-Bissau. The members also stressed the need for the parties to preserve ongoing peace consolidation efforts and to resolve their differences through dialogue. On 6 April, pursuant to a request by Nigeria, the Council, in consultations of the whole, listened to a briefing from the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco, on the situation since the events of 1 April. Members again expressed the views that all parties should refrain from acts of violence, uphold the Constitution and preserve the country's post-conflict progress. Members also commented on the importance of promoting security sector reform and the necessity of addressing illegal drug trafficking in Guinea-Bissau.

Somalia piracy

On 6 April, in consultations of the whole, under "Other matters", the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation, Vitaly Churkin, introduced a draft resolution requesting the Secretary-General to present to the Council within three months a report on possible options to further the aim of prosecuting and imprisoning persons responsible for acts of piracy and armed robbery at sea off the coast of Somalia. On 27 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1918 (2010), by which it requested the Secretary-General to present the said report.

Sudan

On 8 April, in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations briefed the Council on preparations for elections in the Sudan. He discussed the boycott by some of the opposition parties, technical logistical challenges facing the National Elections Commission, electoral support of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS) to the Commission and issues regarding election observers.

On 27 April, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for the Sudan, Haile Menkerios, briefed the Council on the Sudan, focusing on the situation on the ground since the announcement of election results by the National Elections Commission the day before. He emphasized that UNMIS support for establishing conditions for peaceful referendums and post-referendum processes would now be the Mission's highest priority. In that regard he underlined the implementation of the Mission's strategy for protection of civilians and contingency planning.

After the briefing by the Special Representative, the Council moved to consultations of the whole. The President of the Council began discussions with a summary of the Council's private meeting on 9 April with troop- and police-contributing countries, which had focused on preparations for elections, in particular UNMIS technical and logistical support to the National Elections Commission, mandate implementation, activities of UNMIS and planning for the referendums in 2011.

On 29 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1919 (2010), by which it extended the mandate of UNMIS for a further period of 12 months, with reference to all of its previous resolutions concerning Sudan. In resolution 1919 (2010), the Council also requested the Secretary-General to provide in his quarterly reports a detailed plan of measures UNMIS was taking to support the referendums and popular consultation processes, information on the status of United Nations engagement with the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and the parties'

progress concerning the critical tasks that would need to be accomplished post-referendum and, as appropriate, information on UNMIS planning in consultation with the parties concerning the United Nations presence in the post-interim period in the Sudan.

Western Sahara

On 9 April, the Council and the countries contributing troops and police to the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) heard a briefing by Wolfgang Weisbrod-Weber, Director of the Asia and Middle East Division of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He gave an overview of the Mission's activities over the past year and described the Mission's programme of confidence-building measures, urging donors to support it.

On 15 April, in consultations of the whole, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara and Head of MINURSO, Hany Abdel-Aziz, and the Personal Envoy of the Secretary-General for Western Sahara, Christopher Ross, briefed the Council on the basis of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/2010/175). While Council members welcomed the parties' continuing commitment to the process of negotiations and their willingness to engage in the preparatory informal talks, many expressed regret for the lack of substantial progress in preparation for a fifth round of negotiations and also the view that the parties must demonstrate further political will for finding a solution.

On 30 April, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1920 (2010), extending the mandate of MINURSO for one year.

Americas

Haiti

On 28 April, the Council held a debate on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH). The Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the Mission, Edmond Mulet, briefed the Council on the activities of MINUSTAH after the January earthquake and on its future role. He stressed that the next 12 to 18 months would be a period of great challenges and risks for Haiti, and expressed his view that Haiti and the international community were capable of managing and mitigating those risks. Following the briefing, the Prime Minister of Haiti, Jean-Max Bellerive, made a statement on the current situation in Haiti, urging the international community to continue with its support efforts.

All the Council members took the floor, followed by nine non-members and representatives of the Organization of American States and the European Union. Speakers expressed solidarity with Haiti and paid tribute to MINUSTAH and the United Nations personnel and recognized the Mission's important contributions to ensuring stability in Haiti after the earthquake. Members also acknowledged that MINUSTAH would have a critical role to play in support of the Haitian authorities and the Haitian people. In addition, delegations stressed that MINUSTAH and the international community would need to provide long-term capacity-building support for the Government of Haiti to restore and strengthen its operational capacity.

Representatives also expressed views about the recommendations in the report of the Secretary-General on MINUSTAH (S/2010/200 and Corr.1), which was issued on 22 April.

Asia

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

At the open debate on 14 April, the Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, who said that efforts aimed at bringing about the conditions for a resumption of Israeli-Palestinian talks had continued. He said that the situation on the ground remained fragile and a crisis of confidence between the parties had so far prevented the resumption of talks. He stressed the continuing support of the United Nations for efforts to resume the peace process as well as for the Palestinian State-building agenda and briefed the Council about developments in that regard, including the convening of the recent meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee for Assistance to the Palestinians in Madrid. He also addressed the Secretary-General's visit to the League of Arab States summit and gave a briefing on the situation in Lebanon, noting that in the area of operations of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) it remained generally quiet.

Following the briefing, the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations, the Permanent Representative of Israel and 18 other speakers addressed the Council, and Council members also made statements. Many speakers stressed that there was no alternative to achieving a solution other than through negotiations. They expressed support for the effort of the United States of America to start the proximity talks between the Israeli and Palestinian sides and at the same time stressed that it should lead to direct talks. A number of members urged all parties to abide by their obligations under the road map, the Madrid terms of reference, the Arab Peace Initiative and relevant Security Council resolutions, which would contribute to a peaceful settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian and Arab-Israeli conflicts and, ultimately, to attainment of a just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the Middle East. A number of participants expressed concern about the situation in Gaza and the need to address its humanitarian situation. Speakers also touched on the situation in Lebanon and expressed support for the full implementation of relevant Security Council resolutions and for UNIFIL.

Lebanon

On 29 April, during closed consultations, the Council received a briefing by the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004), Terje Roed-Larsen, on the eleventh semi-annual report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the resolution (S/2010/193). The Special Envoy recalled and emphasized that the primary goal of resolution 1559 (2004) was to strengthen the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon under the sole and exclusive authority of the Government of Lebanon. He reported that many of its provisions had now been implemented, but noted that the presence of Lebanese and non-Lebanese militias, in particular their weapons, continued to pose a threat not only to the stability of the country, but also to the region. He stressed that the Secretary-General was of the view that the best way to address the disarmament of armed groups was through a

Lebanese-led political process. The Special Envoy reported that the United Nations took seriously the information provided to it on arms smuggling into Lebanon, but did not have the means to independently verify it. He reiterated the call on all States to abide by the arms embargo. He reported that the United Nations had called on Israel to cease the overflights and also that the Secretary-General had urged his Israeli interlocutors to find an early solution to the issue of Ghajar.

Members of the Council welcomed the formation of the new government in Lebanon as well as the progress in bilateral relations between Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic, including the intention of the two countries to delineate their border. They stressed the importance of strict respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, unity and political independence of Lebanon. Council members noted the need for all States to abide by the arms embargo and reiterated their support for and the importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004).

Iraq

On 6 April, the Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Accounts, and Controller, Jun Yamazaki, briefed the Council on the report of the Secretary-General pursuant to paragraph 3 of Security Council resolution 1905 (2009) (S/2010/166) on the activities of the International Advisory and Monitoring Board in overseeing the Development Fund for Iraq. He also discussed legal issues and options to be considered in implementing successor arrangements and assessing the Government of Iraq's progress in preparing for those successor arrangements to the Development Fund for Iraq. Afterwards, the President of the Board of Supreme Audit and Head of the Committee of Financial Experts, Abdul Basit Turki Saeed, briefed the Council on the report of the Government of Iraq pursuant to paragraphs 4 and 5 of Security Council resolution 1905 (2009), providing an action plan and timeline for the transition to a post-Development Fund mechanism. After the briefing, the Council held consultations of the whole on the issue. Council members expressed satisfaction that the Government of Iraq had submitted the report and provided an action plan. They also noted the importance of ensuring payments to the Compensation Fund, pursuant to paragraph 21 of Council resolution 1483 (2003), into a post-Development Fund mechanism. Additionally, some Council members requested clarification on the privileges and immunities that Iraq requested to be granted in a post-Development Fund mechanism.

General issues

Briefing by the Secretary-General

On 15 April, in consultations of the whole, the Council heard a briefing by the Secretary-General on his recent visits to five Central Asian countries, Vienna and Washington, D.C. In his briefing, he commended the success of the Nuclear Security Summit held on 12 and 13 April, welcomed the new United States-Russian Federation deal on nuclear disarmament, and noted the importance of the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the global actions against nuclear terrorism. He also confirmed that he would propose holding a Security Council meeting to follow up on the commitments made at the Nuclear Security Summit. Members of the Council

welcomed the Secretary-General's commitment to nuclear security and his proposals.

Regarding his visit to Vienna, the Secretary-General reported to the Council that he made a statement at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, commending its multidimensional security efforts and its cooperation with the United Nations. He also mentioned the Chief Executives Board meeting he held at the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, as well as his bilateral meetings with high-level counterparts in the Government of Austria.

In discussing his recent visit to Central Asian countries, the Secretary-General emphasized the role of the United Nations in assisting economic development in those countries and the importance of addressing transborder crime, climate change, the situation in Afghanistan, human rights and various other socio-economic and political issues. He further discussed the situation of the Aral Sea, recent events in Kyrgyzstan and the hydropower station issue in Tajikistan. In reporting on developments in Kyrgyzstan, he included mention of the recent appointment of his Special Envoy to Kyrgyzstan, Jan Kubis, and welcomed the arrangement between the Provisional Government and the former President, Kurmanbek Bakiyev, enabling Mr. Bakiyev to leave the country. Members of the Council commended the role of the United Nations in stabilizing the Central Asian region, especially through the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia.

Peace and security in Africa — support for African Union peacekeeping

On 12 April, in consultations of the whole, the Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, Susana Malcorra, briefed the Council on the latest report of the Secretary-General on the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, the United Nations presence in Addis Ababa, African Union capacity-building and African Union peacekeeping activities. During their discussion Council members welcomed efforts to further strengthen the strategic partnership. In considering further support for the peacekeeping activities of the African Union, members noted that for some African countries enormous gaps in their military capacity limited the ability to contribute to peacekeeping and the potential that regional organizations could play in filling them, such as the African Union and the European Union.

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 16 April, the Council held an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding on the basis of the concept paper submitted by Japan (S/2010/167, annex). The debate was chaired by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, Katsuya Okada. In his opening statement to start the discussion, he posed the following questions: why do conflicts recur after a ceasefire is successfully concluded? and why does peace often not take root in post-conflict countries? Following the Foreign Minister, the Secretary-General addressed the Council, stating that three keys for peacebuilding were to deliver peace dividends to conflict-affected people, to build State capacity and to take a comprehensive approach that encompassed political, security and social dimensions.

The Council then heard briefings by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Afghanistan, Zalmai Rassoul, the Minister of Defence of Sierra Leone, Alfred Palo Conteh, the Minister of Justice of Timor-Leste, Lucia Lucia Maria Lobato, in which

they gave an overview of peacebuilding efforts in their countries and offered lessons learned. The Managing Director of the World Bank, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, also briefed the Council, stating that achieving the best results in peacebuilding required focusing on country context, partnership and accountability.

The members of the Council stressed the importance of an integrated approach for peacebuilding which strengthened coherence between political, security, development, human rights and rule of law activities, and they noted the important role that the United Nations could play in supporting national authorities in their efforts to develop peacebuilding strategies that addressed priority needs. Council members also stressed the importance of national ownership and the development of national capacity in peacebuilding. The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sven Alkalaj, participated in the debate, emphasizing that a sustainable security sector required police and military reform, as well as impartial and accessible judicial and law enforcement sectors. The Permanent Representative of Germany, Peter Wittig, who took part in the discussion in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, stated that the Commission would continue to explore measures to deepen the United Nations collaboration with the main actors at the country level, promote mutual accountability between the host Governments and partners, and monitor progress towards meeting critical peacebuilding objectives. In total, 49 speakers addressed the Council.

Following the debate, the Council adopted a statement by the President of the Council (S/PRST/2010/7), which emphasized the critical importance of post-conflict peacebuilding as the foundation for building sustainable peace and development in the aftermath of conflict, and recognized that sustainable peacebuilding required an integrated approach which strengthened coherence between political, security, development, human rights and rule of law activities.

Women and peace and security

On 27 April, the Council held a public meeting during which it heard briefings by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, and the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Rachel Mayanja. The Special Representative briefed the Council on her priorities agenda and her recent visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stressed the importance of prevention of sexual violence in armed conflict and ending impunity. The Special Adviser briefed the Council on the Secretary-General's report on women and peace and security (S/2010/173), in which he proposed a set of indicators for use at the global level to track the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). At the end of the meeting, the Council adopted a presidential statement (S/PRST/2010/8), which reiterated the Council's support for the mandate of the Special Representative, took note of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/173) and expressed the Council's intention to take action on a comprehensive set of indicators in October 2010. Following the meeting, the Council held consultations of the whole to hear a briefing by the Special Representative on more specific findings from her visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo to exchange views on how to address effectively the issue of sexual violence in the country.

Working methods: implementation of the measures set out in the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2006/507)

On 22 April, the Council convened an open debate on its working methods. The issue had last been the subject of a open debate in the Council on 27 August 2008 under the presidency of Belgium. The Council considered the implementation of the measures set out in the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2006/507) that addressed such issues as agenda, briefings, documentation, informal consultations, meetings, the programme of work, resolutions, presidential statements, subsidiary bodies and newly elected members. The debate was based on the concept paper distributed by Japan on 5 April (S/2010/165, annex), in which it proposed that the discussion focus on three areas of key importance to the Council members and non-members alike: transparency, interaction with non-members and efficiency.

All the members of the Council and 38 non-members made statements, including Liechtenstein on behalf of the group of five small countries (S-5), Egypt on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement, Luxembourg on behalf of the Benelux countries, Finland on behalf of the Nordic countries, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, representing the Caribbean Community. Most delegations stressed the importance of the Council's continuous efforts to improve its openness to non-members of the Council and the general public, while ensuring its ability to act effectively and efficiently. Most representatives of non-members welcomed the Council's increased transparency and enhanced communications with international and regional organizations and with interested countries such as troop-contributing countries. Some delegations praised the increased transparency of sanctions committees in the process of listing and de-listing. Some delegations stated that the question of the working methods should be linked to the overall reform of the Council. Despite noting improvements in recent years, most non-members called for fuller implementation of the note by the President in order to improve transparency and interaction with the wider membership.

The Council planned to follow up on the discussion in its Informal Working Group on Documentation and Other Procedural Questions, which Japan serves as the Chair.